

Earth First! Action Update

No.39 MAY 1997

"You're only as good as your last action" - Captain Chromosome

GLOBAL GENE SHAG

As part of the Global Week of Action against Genetic Engineering, Super Heroes Against Creation went to Japan. On Monday 21st, around 60 activists stormed the High Wycombe HQ of Monsanto, creation of Roundup Ready crops and other genetic disasters (including Agent Orange). Banners were hung from the roofs, as activists entered the entire building.

Despite being told not to talk to producers by their superiors, most workers were successfully approached and took part in conversations about the company's misdeeds. Some seemed genuinely worried, although a few unfortunately believed their own propaganda.

Whilst SIAG was having a cut with the top bosses in the board room, a 'suspect package' was found by the police on the second floor. Activists were duly asked to leave the building 'for their own safety'. However the absence of the bomb squad or any real indication of staff made it an unlikely story. Subsequently the 'bomb' was diffused by an heroic activist who walked down to it, picked it up and shook it to show the police, which had 'Monsanto' written on the address label underneath, was empty. A real attempt by the company to get the activists out of the office.

Police presence was slight, with two plainclothes Thames Valley Police (IDing known protesters, and stopping in film. At 16.00, the pre-arranged leaving time, everyone did just that, there was no arrest.

On the following Wednesday, SIAG struck again, this time at Tower Bell Coal Refractory, a PR firm in London. They're funded by Monsanto and other corporations to selectively 'educate' the public of the benefits of the modern soy bean. That morning the Royal Court Info Lane was staffed by Captain Chromosome, while fellow superheros including G-Nose and Agent Orange, searched files, gathered useful information, and talked to bemused staff.

The police soon turned up in support of the right guard - they thought it was a minor handbook issued rights action on some office above. After 3 hours all left without any arrests being made.

The apparent lack of fuel for arrests shown by the police is suspected to be due to the genetic

superhero industry's wish for low publicity.

Later on in the week, actions happened in supermarkets around the country. Most followed the theme of filling trolleys full of produce, bringing them to the checkouts, 'refusing' they say to scan GM crops, refusing to pay, and asking to see the manager whilst others belated customers at Asda Super Hero outlets.

in their best, encouraged to move the stage. Get a microphone and give the donor guests further food for thought.

Outside Strigter, new Labour MP and activist co-ordinator, and one of the guests of honour, was observed turning pale white, then a nice bright red. Perhaps one day he'll manage green - but consider that some safety.



They thought they had it stopped, and failed. The biggest Street Party didn't go down with the list. If you saw anything or need witness contact the Legal Defence & Monitoring Group.

STOP PROTESTATION LATEST STOP PRESS THE END IN HIGH STOP PROTESTATION LATEST

The safety meeting between protesters and the forces of doom happened on 6th May. Leave to appeal. The prosecution order is being sought as we go to press, so be on a victim alert from the 16th May. Please the CAR2 office for the latest update. 3 km along the A518 (direction Walsley) from Manchester Airport train station.

action. "Come and take part in the growth industry of the decade: RESISTANCE"

VICTORY ON THE SOUTH DOWNS

"There was an unpleasant young farmer who went by the surname of Farmer. He ploughed up a field to boost his cash yield and moved the deadweight of 150000."

At Otford in East Sussex, Farmer Harmer ploughed up a chalk grassland, which forms a Site of Special Scientific Interest, with rare butterflies and plants. His only reason for doing so was to plant Sax so that he can gain an EU subsidy of £5000.

The first anti-plough camp was born, after a touch of digger-driving, and people started to resist the damage. News item, victory! A Conservation Order has been served, there is a steep rise in price for the land, and people are making it all in right as rain, though water is much needed. No Japanese land-bombing (with Silver Oxide) here, as per dancing, and contact them on 01273-324425.

TABLE DANCE AGAINST RUNWAY 2

Four CAR2 campaigners evaded police, undercover detection and harassed Thames nearby guests to gain access to the 'Runway 2 Celebration Dinner' in Manchester on the 11th April.

While other activists staged a banner drop in front of the Piccadilly Hotel, two women dressed as waitresses made their way into the crowded ballroom, checked onto the central table, and launched into a rant about Runway 2 NOT being something to celebrate!

They were removed by security after receiving some reassured applicants, and then detained for two hours until the Chief Constable - who had himself been seated at the table - decided not to charge them with criminal damage to a brand roll.

During this time, two event campaigners dressed

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 Earth First! Website address: <http://www.earthfirst.org.uk> or <http://www.earthfirst.net>

None of the above is a statement you should hold

international humanitarian law. Indeed it therefore illegal and under international law should be revised, not the Peace treaty!

A new campaign of civil disobedience to uphold this international ruling has been set up by several peace and environmental activist groups. On August 9th, Nagasaki Day, there will be actions at Fushimi, as part of a co-ordinated worldwide NVDA campaign on this day, at the 'area of crime'. There will be a rally in the North Gate at Igusa, followed by 'warrior activities', including a boat trip!

The action is a chance to not only display continued resistance to Labour's 'thrust' plan to retain nuclear weapons, but a demonstration of support for Fushimi, in the face of evasion plans.

Contact: Japanese Peace camp in Scotland CND - 0143-423 1222

HEREFORD GENETICS AND THE GENETIC ENGINEERING NETWORK

In the Wake of the very successful Big One Gathering earlier this month, a new group, Hereford Genetics, has evolved to co-ordinate the campaign against Genetically Engineered Food in the Herefordshire area. Members include individuals from local LEP and F&P groups, as well as a contingent from Gloucester. Already campaigners have staged successful supermarket actions at Sainsbury's and may well soon be talking to Tesco's. Anyone with an interest in the cause, or who wants to get involved, contact Hereford Genetics c/o Hereford LEP.

Any group interested in becoming a regional contact for the Genetic Engineering Network, please contact 0191-324 4544 for details. Regular regional meetings are being pulled together, as is a national anti-net newsletter. If you are interested in writing a briefing sheet or leaflet on any of the many issues involved, give us a ring too. Your contact details will be passed on.

HULL RTS

Sunday 22nd of May 300 partying protesters took to the streets and had a hugely effective day of fun and games. Following the initial march, the police (who 'only' wanted a much more effective road block than was planned, regarding the need for tripe, and resulting in the scattering of a much larger mob: 'Well does Fluff!' Said pps, PA, children, dancing, games, beach balls and all! The party was without trouble from police or protesters, the only new arrival was a local hogan in a van who was extremely polite (the protesters' impression that results are far from down, not partying on. Upon being hailed by police and protesters, he pulled on to the back of the back of his van, only to be restrained and cautioned by the police (who seemed to be having a great time!).

After doing it in the street for three hours, the gathering returned to the local pub where the party continued into the evening, without trouble. Respect to all those involved in the first RTS under the new government! Party on. (and it didn't rain)

HULL LAND OCCUPATION

On Saturday 17th April, Hull on Earth occupied an area of 'new city' wasteland, as a day of action to highlight Land Rights issues and encourage and to provide an open access space for NVDA training and workshops on related topics such as living in Co-op, Permaculture, Non-Violence and more.

The area occupied was previously allotments, but has been vacant for the last 12 years. The workshops were very successful, but the most surprising result was the amount of community support for a pro social use of the land. Supporters included members of a housing secretary, local organic gardeners, local residents (plus the chair of the residents association) and staff of a nearby owl rehabilitation centre. As a result of the day, a Legal Defence and Monitoring Group were formed. Another group was established where people pledged to involve themselves in an ongoing campaign to have the area turned into a community garden/permaculture site.

UKRAINE ANTI-NUKES

On April, 23th, the eve of 11th Anniversary of Chernobyl, a group of activists from the environmental movement 'Rainbow Kopecky', 'EcoJustice' (EcoJustice) and MICO groups blockaded the Ukrainian President's residence in Kiev's Ukraine to protest against Ukrainian nuclear policy. They dodged armed 'mobies', defying a 3 year ban on all public protest. The activists chained themselves to the front gate and sang a hymn. They then demanded that President and Government that leave Chernobyl, and their plans of creating a 'closed nuclear fuel cycle' in Ukraine; do not start-up new reactors at Kirov and Khmelnytsky; stop weapons testing in Ukraine; stop the Nuclear Energy Development Programme; and redistribute the finances from this programme to the development of energy efficient technologies. After an emergency 45 minute press call, they were arrested and released 6 hours later.

STRINGERS COMMON EVICTION ALERT

One of the camps is in court on May 16th. As the powers that be want to extract funds to make the case through, getting a special dispensation to avoid giving 2 days notice, evictions took very much time. They desperately need people, in, and donations.

HOLTSFIELD VICTORY

Fortunately Labour's was not the only victory on May 1st. The residents of Holtsfield chert community, who were living under the threat of eviction, won their case in the House of Lords. Earlier in the year they had marched from Swans to Westminster to highlight their plight at the hands of profiteering property developer, Tim Jones. This is the most significant land-rights decision for a decade as it questions the age old feudal law which gave the land owner absolute rights in the land beneath tenants houses. This could have a positive impact on tenancies, gypsies and other low aspect dwellers.

LLANDONA COMMON

The Countryside Council for Wales has jointly published a 'conservation' (nature reserve) plan for Llandona Llanaulya common where recommendations amount to the razing of the extensive land. This will transform a healthy growth of small trees and grass to a贫瘠 and desecrated patch of bare land.

They have begun their plan - parts of Llandona common have been trashed, and farmland prepared at Llanedina. Farmers have been told to reduce bush cover for their sheep to feed on, and the CCW will then remove ecology - trees, include and graze our common. Why on Earth don't they leave the land to restore itself from overgrazing?

Actions are planned on the site. For info, Gwynedd & Môn LEP.

EVENTS

MAY

- 11-14 Action against the huge oil companies following the G8 Summit gathering
- 14 OREIL AGM (OIL Resistant Action) against the World Bank, London. Contact OREIL for dates or more information, or just start up on the day
- 14 "How do we defend the right to peaceful protest?" 10.30-12.00 at the Conference Hall, Trafalgar Centre, 14 Trafalgar Road, London for free. Kings Cross) Contact 0181 484 6666 for the Greenpeace Law & Research Centre free contact info
- 14-19 Hipp & Karmen Conference Hall, Cheltenham Contact 01235 747536
- 14-19 Black Women's Conference Hall, London for free. "The women's struggle against the new wave of the industry of women's exploitation" Meet them at the Women's Library, 140 Finsbury Square, 3 miles west of Regent's Park. Contact: Cheltenham, Walsingham, Oxford, Kent, Public House Workshop, 21, Little Porters Street, Brighton BN1 3JZ
- 14-19 International weekend in positive living skills, Cheltenham, including advice and emotional plant observation and use, training and the making. Other workshops on the topics: SAGE to Trafalgar, 83, 140 Trafalgar Road, London for free. 0171 993 7023
- 14-19 Sheffield Redbus The Street West of 1200 on Greenpeace Great with drama, banners and party band. Contact 01773 411414 1501
- 16 Concert Against Japan's Atom at 12 of Haverhill Rd, on the A10 between Harford & Brixton SW 9
- 24-2 June March 100 U.S. Stop from Atlantic Port. Stop workshops, NVDA, training, music, art, video, food, film, and more! Contact: 0143-423 1222
- 27 London (EP) Electric Engineering Network meeting, 14 W 60 Camden Road pub, Essex Rd, London N1
- 31 York Road Party March 100 in Cheltenham at 12.00. Meet them at the Cheltenham, 140 Finsbury Square, 3 miles west of Regent's Park. Contact: Cheltenham, Walsingham, Oxford, Kent, Public House Workshop, 21, Little Porters Street, Brighton BN1 3JZ

JUNE

- 2 Walsingham (EP) Electric Engineering Network meeting, 14 W 60 Camden Road pub, Essex Rd, London N1
- 10-11 Alternative European Summer, Amsterdam. People from across the UK, Ireland, and other countries will be meeting in Amsterdam. Contact: A 2010 Europe, PO Box 1000, 1000 AB Amsterdam, Netherlands. +31 20 662226 or email: amsterdam@amsterdam.nl
- 12 Birmingham People's Free Festival. Info: see 10-11
- 14 Day of 'No' at Fushimi peace camp
- 20-22 Belfast Belfast Peace Week. 011-423 1222

JULY

- 4 Hope Transport at Walsingham 100, "Independent Britain Action" day. 0114-423 1222
- 6-10 Earth First! Summer Gathering, workshops, training, advice, music, etc. 2000-11 1st floor at 1770-10 London E1
- 11 Walk to the rescue of the Park, Bournemouth. Info: see 10-11
- 11-13 National LEP action, to be arranged
- 13-17 Big Green Gathering - workshops, music, etc. 01747 875667
- 20-22 United Peace Festival, Fushimi, London
- 28-30 August Second International Gathering for Energy & Nuclear Non-Violence, Bournemouth. Japan. Following an extensive plan by the Chinese, the Japanese have been to form "an international network" connecting all "peace clubs" in the world. For info contact: London Committee c/o BACAL, London WC1N 1XX

AUGUST

- 1-14 Ecotopia Gathering, at Marlborough, Bedford. Contact: ETRA, PO Box 5433, 100-02 Amsterdam, Netherlands. +31 20 662226, eph@amsterdam.nl
- 8 Inquest Day returns to Fushimi and other nuclear sites. Contact: Fushimi Peace Camp

LEGAL DISCLAIMER: The editors of the Earth First! Action Update do not intend to encourage people to carry out any illegal action. The Action Update is for information purposes only.

HORSEPLAY AT LLOYDS-TSB AGM

There were many tears at the tailer of the black horse, when a black gypsy horse trotted into the Lloyds-TSB AGM on April 15th. The horse, accompanied by two "generals" and other shareholders, questioned the new chair, Sir Brian PARNAL, on Third World debt and Lloyds financing of Africa and Vietnam tasks in Indonesia and Nigeria respectively.

No surprise from Lloyds when they refused to answer questions on future arms financing, but surprise support came from a former chairman who berated Sir Brian, accusing him of anything the previous who, "have still got the conscience that most people have lost to have lost."

The HSBC/Midland AGM is on the 30th May, Barbican Centre, phone 0161-274 4662.

LONDON CRITICAL MASS THIRD BIRTHDAY

Critical Mass has reached the grand old age of 3. Hundreds of cyclists have been following the police motorbikes through town every month. In April they celebrated by having a birthday party in the middle of Piccadilly Circus. Right in the middle.

Just a little one, mind, just to make the point that cars should be designed around people and not the needs of motor traffic.

The mass left at its normal time from the South Bank to inspect a specially made 15" chocolate cake, on its journey around town to rendezvous with the tables and chairs being prepared at Piccadilly Circus by a small group of activists who had gone out in front.

A terrific racket was made as the mass arrived being on time. Once it was clear that the Circus was needed to motor traffic the tables and chairs were wheeled onto the road and set up with table cloths and vases of flowers for that real cake deal. A waiter laid out the cake and served champagne to call "customers" whilst musicians sang happy birthday. Spectators and police looked on amazed.

PRESSEMAN WOODS

On the East Coast of Scotland, twenty five miles from Edinburgh, lies Pressman Woods, a tiny fragment of the once immense Caledonian forest that covered large areas of the country. This piece of 13,000 year old oak wood and is yet another area that has fallen into the hands of the people that put profit before life. John Kenward, the local landowner, along with the Forestry Commission, wants to cut around 350 mature oaks to "clear the wood for the enjoyment

of future generations." What they fail to admit is that such an amount of felling would severely damage the ecosystem within the wood and would open the wood to potentially devastating wind damage, never mind the fact that such trees have a Tree Protection Order on it. Once the trees have been cut they are likely to be sold to a German car manufacturer to make dashboard veneers, or it is not hard to see why they are so eager to thin the wood. If there is a big enough number of people opposed to the scheme it is likely that they will back down. A camp has already been set up, so come and defend this precious piece of Scotland. For more details contact 0131-228 2193 or 01348-439638.

PURE GENIUS

By 10am on 5th May, the banners were hanging from the balconies of Dungeness House, overlooking the fabled site of the Woodworth Eco-Village. At the same time, people were gathering across the river, to celebrate the anniversary of the occupation a year ago, when 400 activists occupied Chesham's riverside plot.

The anger of local residents remains strong since the eviction last October. This anger has found expression in the formation of the Gargyle Wharf Community Action Group, started by locals to put forward alternative development plans. "We want to celebrate the achievements of the eco-village and the positive things it brought to our borough. We want affordable housing, local shops, access to our waterfront, green spaces and facilities for our children," read one local resident.

100 people from Pure Genius joined them in a re-meeting of the land, by throwing seeds over the river into the water. Van loads of police seemed to be expecting much more than this ceremony, but made themselves useful playing with the traffic, while the Pure Genius posse made their way elsewhere for a mix of poetry, music and theatre.

Underlying the peaceful atmosphere simmered a determination to continue the fight. "Chesham is a destructive bastion. We are all furious, not only did they evict our new friends, they have threatened the site... We have to let them know it hurts - their profits. I want a national boycott of Chesham," a local said.

Support the campaign by boycotting all Chesham and United Distillers' products. A full list can be found on TLBO website - <http://www.newverdi.org/tlv/>

"NO TANK YOU", PLOUGHSHARES-STYLIE

A group of ten activists, including three East Timorese refugees, entered the Glover Valve factory in the early hours of 5th May at Hamble, near Southampton, to comply with international calls of conduct on arms control.

They found over 300 Tactical armoured vehicles and water cannons awaiting export to the repressive Indonesian regime. After marking the vehicles with "NOT FOR EXPORT TO INDONESIA!", they quietly waited to explain to the workers why this vehicle could not be exported to Indonesia.

All were arrested on suspicion of burglary, including the accompanying journalists. They've been released on condition they return to find out whether they'll be charged. The East Timorese were kept for longest, to ensure they were not these distinctly illegal immigrant people. One, granted political asylum after escaping torture back home, was denied medication by our boys (in blue).

British military weaponry has been used in human rights abuses both in East Timor and Indonesia, and attempts to prevent the export through the courts have surprisingly enough failed.

HEAD STATE SUPPORT GROUP

The Head State Support Group is being set up to provide help (legal & letter writing) for people who feel mentally unstable from too much direct action (at a rough estimate over 15 people were sentenced under the Mental Health Act during and after Nivebury). If you want or can offer help, have been sentenced or know someone who has, please contact 'Wicham Group', 54 Mill Road, North Lancing, West Sussex, BN15 0PZ, e-mail jmg@nicaliahalf.demon.co.uk

EARTH FIRST! ACTION SUPPORT

An initiative to currently supply expensive kit local groups can't afford, partly funded by the Warmer's Child Club, which itself does not or even less food at action. It'll take time but it's getting there. If you want your action supported (or want to make a donation) give them a call.

EARTH FIRST! SUBSCRIPTIONS

If you pick up an EF! Action Update for free from one of the many distribution points around the country, then think you can afford to take out a subscription, please take one out. Remember that each paid for Update pays for another five donations to prisoners, etc., and other much needed useful things.

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